



Docket No. 56755 (70551)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: N. Yamamoto, et al.

U.S.S.N.: 10/007,127 EXAMINER: P. Hassanzadeh

FILED: 12/3/2001 GROUP: 1763

FOR: Plasma Processing Apparatus

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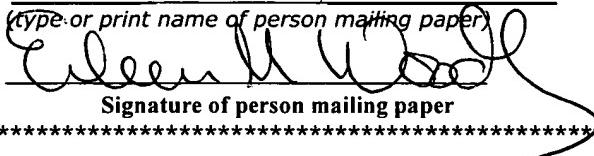
**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10\***

(Express Mail label number is mandatory.)

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date 4/7/04 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing Label Number EV438994885US addressed to Box: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Signature of person mailing paper

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 02209-9169

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 8, 2003 and the Advisory Action mailed March 19, 2004, in the above referenced application. Applicants kindly ask that the above-identified application be amended prior to examination as set forth herein.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.